

## Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 HA-05  
OES-09 L-03 SS-15 /078 W  
-----067965 180859Z /15 R

P R 171300Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 772  
INFO: RUTAIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 8604  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NIAMEY 3077

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ECON  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 164983, (B) NIAMEY 0189

1. OUR REFLECTION ON THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA COMES, WE BELIEVE, AT A VERY IMPORTANT JUNCTURE IN THE EVOLVING U.S./AFRICA RELATIONSHIP. THE CURRENT PURSUIT OF POLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO OLD CONTINENTAL PROBLEMS WAS LONG OVERDUE. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE CAPABLE OF PERMANENT SOLUTION WITHOUT EFFECTIVE AND CONCURRENT MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC PATTERNS WHICH ARE INEXTRICABLE INTERWOVEN WITHIN THE POLITICAL FABRIC. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SENTENCE IN REFTEL IS QUOTE...HOW THE USG COULD PUT TOGETHER AN ECONOMICALLY SENSIBLE AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANT PACKAGE. END QUOTE. WE HOPE THAT AFRICA WILL CONCUR THAT THE PACKAGE IS  
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ECONOMICALLY SENNSIBLE AND POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

2. IN GENERAL, MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OR SUGGESTED ACTIONS APPEAR TO BE SOUND. HOWEVER, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BECOME SOLIDLY ENCASED AS EXPRESSIONS OF POLICY, I FEEL THAT THEYSHOULD BE PLACED IN PHILOSOPHICAL, POLITICAL CONTEXT. INASMUCH AS THE LDCS AND PARTICULARLY THE AFRICAN

STATES ARE FIERCELY NATIONALISTIC AND RESISTANT TO ANY THREAT TO THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE STRUGGLE FOR RECOGNITION AS SOVEREIGN EQUALS , POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, THAT COMPELS THE GROUP OF 77 PUCH FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPING AFRICAN STATES REQUEST INCREASED DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, IN REALITY THEY WISH ALSO TO HAVE OR AT LEAST TO SHARE CONTROL OF THE MECHANISMS FOR THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES. THE STATUS OF WELFARE RECIPIENTS IS A DEMEANING ONE, AND ALTHOUGH REQUESTED AND ACCEPTED, STILL CAUSES REACTIONS OR FEEDS ATTITUDES OF POLITICAL HOSTILITY. DONORS, IN SPITE OF GOOD INTENTIONS, JEALOUSLY RESERVE THEIR RIGHT TO CONTROL THE "END-USE" AS WELL AS THE MANNER IN WHICH RESOURECES ARE TRANSFERRED. THUS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO LDCS WITH SOMETIMES MIXED RESULTS. HOW MANY LDCS HAVE DROPPED THE "L" IN THELAST TWENTY YEARS?

4. TO OVERCOME THE NAGGING RESENTMENTS OF THE DONEES AND THE GUILT OF THE DONORS, THERE NEEDS TO BE A RETHINKING OF THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO. THE TERM INTERDEPENDENCE IS SIGNIFICANT. IT SUGGESTS PARTNERSHIP IN THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND BENEFITS FLOWING FROM EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, A NEW AND MUTUALLY BENEFITIAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER WILL COME INTO BEING.  
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TO THE EXTENT THE UNITED STATES BEGINS TO VIEW LDCS AS BUSINESS PARTNERS, RATHER THAN POUR COUSINS, THE CLIMATE OF DEVELOPMENT WILL IMPROVE, WITH POLITICAL PAY-OFF.

5. WITH RESPECT TO NIGER,SPECIFICALLY, AND THE SAHEL IN GENERAL, THE CATALOG OF PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED HAS BEEN RESTATED MANY TIMES. NIGER IS A SPECIAL CASE BECAUSE IT IS LAND-LOCKED, BUT WITH A VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCE, URANIUM, THAT COULD PLACE IT AMONG THE WORLD'S TOP 4 OR 5 PRODUCERS. ITS ACCESS TO THE SEA, ITS ACCESS TO PORTS IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT BOTH FOR THE IMPORTATION OF THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS THE EXPORTATION YELLOW CAKE AS NEW MINING OPERATIONS BEGIN, YET AT THE PRESENT TIME NIGER COULD LITERALLY STARVE TO DEATH ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER NIGER, IF IT DOES NOT FIRST DIE OF THIRST. CONSEQUENTLY, WE URGE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AS SUGGESTED BY OUAGADOUGOU, SUCH AS THE THE FADA N'GOURMA ROAD, THE EXTENSION OF THE ABIDJAN -NIAMEY RAILROAD TO NIAMEY FROM OUAGADOUGOU AND/OR THE PROPOSED RAIL LINK BETWEEN LOME AND NIAMEY. IN ADDITION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NIGER RIVER BASIN TO PROVIDE IRRIGATED

AGRICULTURE AND HYDROGENERATED ELECTRICITY WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF NIGER, NIGERIA AND THE ENTIRE SAHEL REGION. THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ALREADY PROMISED TO NIGERIA, COULD CONCEIVABLY INSPIRE THE NIGER RIVER COMMISSION TO NEW AND SUSTAINED LEVELS OF EFFECTIVE ACTION AS WELL AS DEVELOPING THE MUCH NEEDED ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE NIGER RIVER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NIAMEY 3077

6. DEVELOPMENT IS BEYOND THE GRASP, THE COMPREHENSION AND THE VITALITY OF THE MALNOURISHED, THE IGNORANT, AND THE SICK, LIVING IN AN IMPROVERISHED AND DISEASED ENVIROMENT. NIGER IS STRUGGLING VALIANTLY TO EXTEND ITS GRASP. WHILE MASSIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED BY USAID AND OTHERS, TOO LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESSENTIAL HUMAN RESOURCE, EDUCATION. FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF A NATION WITH A SEVEN PERCENT (PERHAPS EXAGGERATED) LITERACY RATE, WE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSE THE CONCEPT OF AN EXPANDED AND MASSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SUPPORT PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED REFTEL B. A PROGRAM COULD BE DESIGNED BASED UPON A MULTINATIONAL EFFORT WITH MONETARY AND POLICY PARTICIPATION OPEN TO ALL OAU MEMBERS.

7. WE URGE SUPPORT FOR NIGER'S SOLAR ENERGY EXPERIMENTATION WHICH COULD FOCUS SAHELIAN ATTENTION ON THE REAL

POSSIBILITIES OF THIS ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCE. CHIEF OF  
STATE, SEYNI KOUNTCHE, EMPHASIZING ITS GROWING IMPORTANCE,  
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PROMISED DR. ABDOU MOUMOUNI, DIRECTOR OF ONERSOL, THE  
NIGERIEN NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY OFFICE, THE ANNUAL SUM  
OF THREE HUNDRED MILLION CFA (APPROXIMATELY ONE AND A  
QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS) OF SCARCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.

8. CONCLUSION: THIS STRATEGY MUST BE FAR-SIGHTED AND  
INNOVATIVE. REFTEL A MAKES A PROMISING BEGINNING.  
HOPEFULLY IT WILL EVOLVE AS A TANGIBLE EXPRESSION OF A  
COOPERATIVE EFFORT.JAMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NIAEMEY03077  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780294-0291  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SP  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 164983, 78 NIAEMEY 189  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1986518  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA  
**TAGS:** ECON, US, XA  
**To:** STATE ABIDJAN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b1e87f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014